

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1750
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is running schemes like Agro-Clinic and Agro-Business for the welfare of agricultural graduates;
- (b) if so, the salient features of these schemes; and
- (c) the number of beneficiaries during the last two years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Central Sector Scheme 'Establishment of a Network of Agri Clinic & Agri Business Centres' aims at extending opportunities to all eligible agriculture graduates to support agriculture development through economically viable ventures which will be set up by them with the help of bank loan. The centres would provide advice to farmers on crop selection, best farm practices, pest management and key agricultural information like price trends, market news, crop insurance, phytosanitary considerations etc., which the farmer has to keep in mind for producing agriculture commodities of high quality. The scheme, thus, provides opportunities for self-employment to agriculture graduates in agricultural and allied enterprises and helps the farmers in getting extension services and technical advice from technically qualified persons on payment basis.

(c): The scheme envisages a comprehensive training of candidates before they start their ventures. Training of the Agriculture Graduates commenced from April 2002. Out of 16,471 applications received (till 10th February 2003) from Agriculture Graduates for training, 1865 Agriculture Graduates have already completed the training and 1200 are presently undergoing training in various institutes.